# Army Probes Charges Of Sterility From Lights

By the Associated Press

Soldiers' complaints that they were unable to father children, or that their children were born defective, as the result of a World War II experiment with high-power searchlights are under investigation by the Army today.

The once top-secret experiment involved multi-million candlepower arc lamps mounted on tanks with the intention of blinding German forces in night attacks.

Some 3,000 men were associated with the British-conceived experiment, which never was used in battle although an Army spokesman said nearly 500 M3 tanks were equipped with the 13 million candlepower lights. Some were used to provide light for a Rhine River crossing in 1945.

The story came to light in a New York Daily News dispatch which said four Connecticut men who worked on the project have hired a lawyer to represent them.

**Attorney Confirms**

In Bridgeport, Conn., Attorney Raymond Lyddy confirmed this. Mr. Lyddy said one of the four is sterile. He said wives of the other three have had six miscarriages, three deformed children and two apparently normal children.

The lawyer said at least half of 30 other soldiers on whom he has information reported similar trouble.

"The instances of sterility, malformations, and deformed children were just tremendous," Mr. Lyddy saidd.

The Army said it has received complaints of the same sort involving men once under the command of former Maj. Marshall White of Chicago, who wired the Pentagon asking an inquiry.

And the Veterans Administration said it is reviewing the case of an ex-serviceman who claims he was made sterile by the searchlight beams. The agency identified him as one of Mr. Lyddy's clients, Joseph Vanacore of Hamden, Conn.

**Warning Reported at Time**

The Bridgeport lawyer said men directly involved in the searchlight project were warned at the time that sterility might result—presumably from infrared rays, the kind that come in much smaller doses from such things as hot stoves or home appliance "heat" lamps.

But Mr. Lyddy said the 100 or so men most exposed, all members of the 9th Armored Division's 538th Ordnance Heavy Maintenance Tank Company, nevertheless had no chance to duck the assignment.

Army sources said the searchlight project was borrowed from the British in 1943 and tested first at the Aberdeen, Md., proving grounds, and later at Fort Knox, Ky., where a battalion of about 600 men was formed to perfect the tactical concept.

## Attacker of 2 Under Observation

A 20-year-old Southeast youth was sent to District General Hospital for mental observation, after he was convicted yesterday for indecent assault on two women.

Lester R. Gregory, of the 1300 block of E street S.E., was found guilty by a Municipal Court jury of assaulting a 30-year-old woman early May 17 as she entered her home in the 1000 of Fifteenth street S.E.

Assistant United States Attorney Walter J. Bonner said the woman's screams attracted her brother-in-law, a police private, who chased the attacker but was outdistanced.

Gregory pleaded guilty to a second indecent assault on a 22-year-old WAVE on Memorial Bridge on May 19.

Judge George D. Neilson continued the case to July 12, pending a mental report on Gregory.

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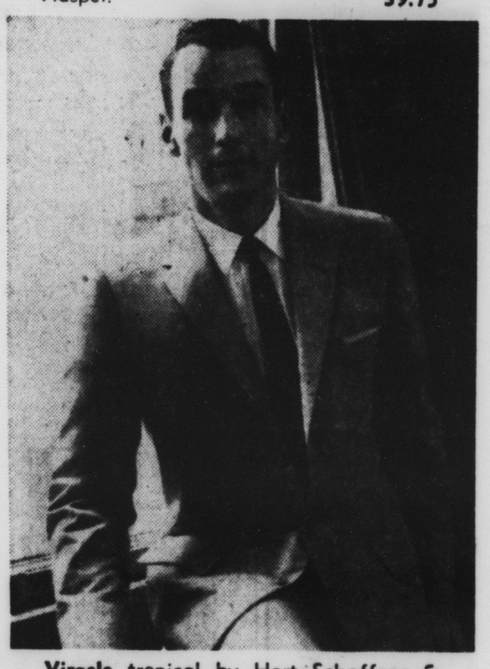

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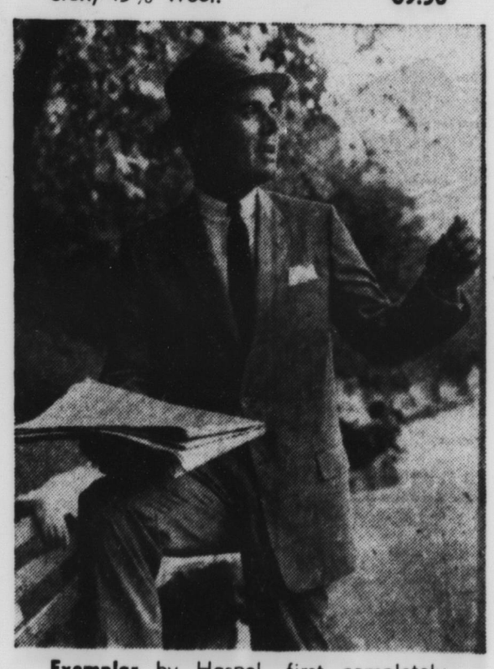

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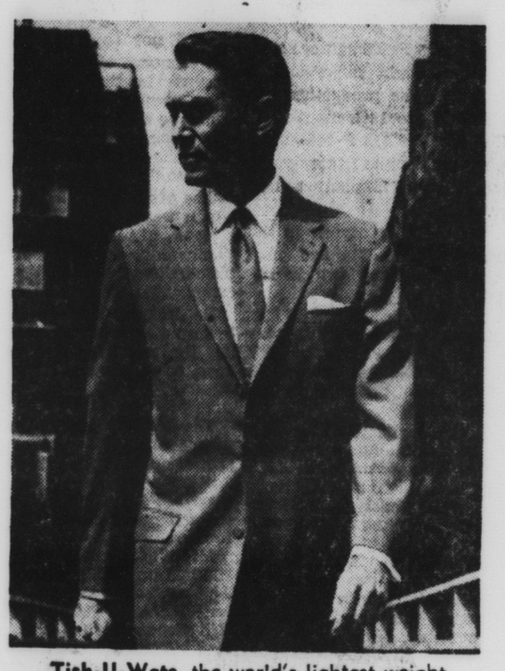

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